

COMMUTING PROFILE

SOUTHEAST REGION

MARCH 2025

Overview

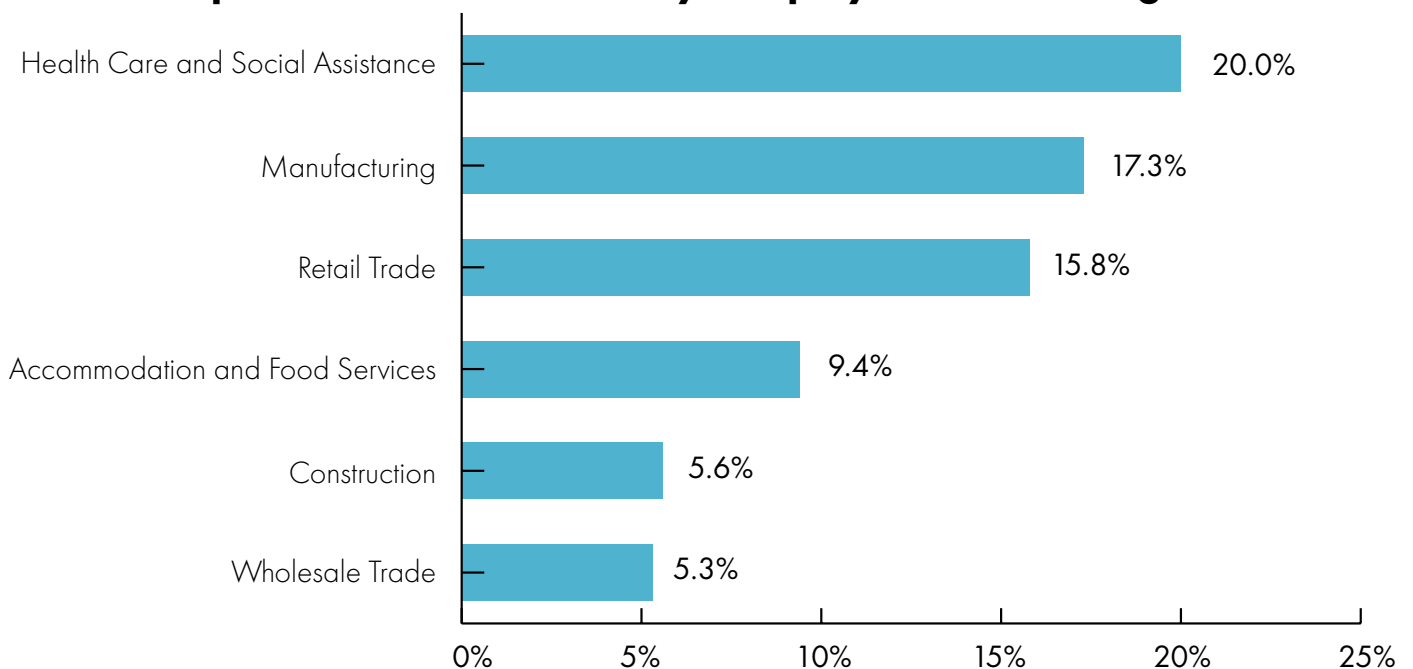
The Southeast Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 13 counties: Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, and Stoddard. The region is home to Dexter, Perryville, Jackson, Sikeston, and Cape Girardeau, which is the largest city in the Southeast Region. In 2022, the Southeast WDA employed 4.5 percent of Missouri's workforce. Nearly half (49.3%) of the workers in the region were aged 30 to 54. Workers aged 29 or younger were 26.7 percent of the workforce and those 55 or older were 23.9 percent. In 2022, 40.8 percent of workers in the Southeast WDA earned more than \$3,333 per month. Of the remaining workers, 20.6 percent earned \$1,250 per month or less and 38.7 percent earned between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month. In 2022, there were more men (51.9%) than women (48.1%) in the Southeast WDA workforce.

In 2022, 27.3 percent of employees living in the Southeast WDA commuted more than 50 miles to work, 14.9 percent of workers traveled 25 to 50 miles to work, 21.2 percent commuted 10 to 24 miles, and 36.6 percent commuted fewer than 10 miles to work.

Industry

Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the region at 20,283 jobs (20% of total jobs in the region). *Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, Construction, and Wholesale Trade* were other major industry sectors having at least 5 percent of the region's employment share. Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Jackson, Farmington, Perryville, Dexter, and Kennett were the top cities for employment in the Southeast WDA.

Top Southeast WDA Industry - Employment Percentage



Where the Southeast Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 101,630 workers employed in the Southeast WDA in 2022, 76.4 percent commuted to work from within the region. The remainder (23.6%) commuted into Southeast WDA from homes outside of the region.

Description	2022	
	Count	Share
Southeast WDA Labor Market Size		
Employed in the Southeast WDA	101,630	100.0%
Living in the Southeast WDA	115,664	113.8%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-14,034	-
In-Area Labor Force Efficiency		
Living in the Southeast WDA	115,664	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Southeast WDA	77,682	67.2%
Living in the Southeast WDA but Employed Outside	37,982	32.8%
In-Area Employment Efficiency		
Employed in the Southeast WDA	101,630	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Southeast WDA	77,682	76.4%
Employed in the Southeast WDA but Living Outside	23,948	23.6%

Of the region's residents who are in the workforce, 32.8 percent, or 37,982, commuted to jobs outside of the region. The Southeast WDA attracted 23,948 workers from outside of the region. More than 77,000 Southeast WDA residents lived and worked in the region.

The top Missouri counties where Southeast WDA workers resided (in descending order) were Cape Girardeau, Scott, St. Francois, and Stoddard. These counties were home to over 48 percent of the region's workforce.

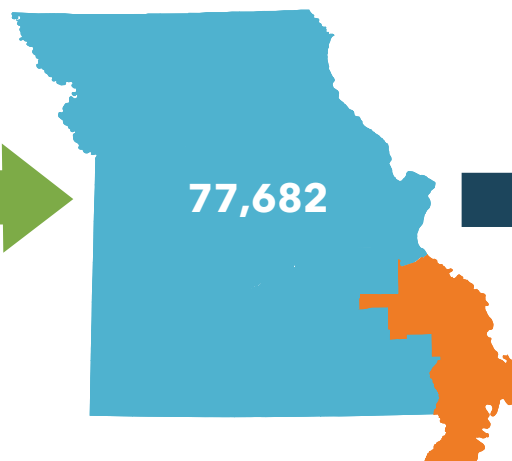
Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 115,664 employees lived in the Southeast WDA and 101,630 workers were employed in the region, resulting in a net outflow of 14,034 workers from the region.

Internal Jobs Filled by
Outside Workers



Internal Jobs Filled by
Residents



External Jobs Filled by
Residents



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Of the 77,682 individuals who lived and worked in the region, 26 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 49.8 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 24.3 percent were aged 55 years or older. Almost half worked in the Services industry.

<i>Southeast WDA Description</i>	2022	
	Count	Share
Outflow Job Characteristics		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	37,982	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	10,903	28.7%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	19,229	50.6%
Workers Aged 55 or older	7,850	20.7%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	6,950	18.3%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	12,495	32.9%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	18,537	48.8%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	8,132	21.4%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	12,105	31.9%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	17,745	46.7%
Inflow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	23,948	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	7,015	29.3%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	11,496	48.0%
Workers Aged 55 or older	5,437	22.7%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	5,233	21.9%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	8,547	35.7%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	10,168	42.5%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	4,749	19.8%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	8,199	34.2%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	11,000	45.9%
Interior Flow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	77,682	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	20,164	26.0%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	38,649	49.8%
Workers Aged 55 or older	18,869	24.3%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	15,666	20.2%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	30,742	39.6%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	31,274	40.3%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	21,447	27.6%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	18,943	24.4%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	37,292	48.0%

Commuter Pattern

The top five counties where Southeast WDA residents worked (in descending order) were Cape Girardeau, St. Francois, Scott, St. Louis County, and Stoddard. All but Cape Girardeau County had at least half of their residents commuting outside their county of residence for work.

The table below indicates that many workers commuted to another county for employment. Larger cities, such as Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, and Perryville, attracted workers from the surrounding counties. The counties containing these cities also had a lower percentage of workers who left the county to find work. The Southeast location in the state with Interstate 55 access improves the ability of Southeast Region residents to commute to their workplaces.

Southeast WDA	
Percent of Employees Working Outside of Home County	
Bollinger	83%
Cape Girardeau	42%
Dunklin	67%
Iron	75%
Madison	68%
Mississippi	71%
New Madrid	67%
Pemiscot	65%
Perry	52%
Scott	61%
St. Francois	60%
Ste. Genevieve	66%
Stoddard	56%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2022*), URL: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

**2022 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2022, although later data for some data points was available.*

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.